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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**November 27, 2002**

### **Checkpoints Net Marijuana and Cocaine**

**MCALLEN, Texas** – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza of the McAllen Border Patrol Sector announces that Border Patrol Agents assigned to the Falfurrias Border Patrol Station Traffic Checkpoint seized 1,912 pounds of marijuana and Border Patrol Agents assigned to the Kingsville Border Patrol Station's Traffic Checkpoint seized 7 pounds of cocaine.

The first incident occurred on Nov. 26, 2002, at approximately 2:45 AM, when Agents working the checkpoint located on U.S. Highway 281 located approximately 13 miles south of Falfurrias, Texas, inspected a tractor-trailer and its occupant. The driver, a naturalized United States citizen, claimed that he had picked up the trailer after it was loaded and sealed. A nearby canine alerted positively to the rear of the trailer. The driver of the trailer was referred to the secondary inspection area for a closer inspection of the trailer and consented to a search. The canine again alerted positively to the area of the trailer. Upon closer inspection of the trailer, agents discovered 92 bundles of marijuana wrapped in clear cellophane weighing a total of 1,912 pounds. The marijuana is valued at \$1,529,600. The driver of the tractor-trailer was arrested and turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The second incident took place on Nov. 26, 2002, at approximately 6:30 PM, when Agents working the checkpoint located on U.S. Highway 77, south of Kingsville, Texas, inspected a dark blue 1994 Jeep Cherokee and its two male occupants. As the Agent attempted to question the two occupants of the vehicle as to their citizenship, the canine on duty alerted positively to the vehicle, indicating a presence of narcotics or human cargo. The driver of the vehicle was referred to the secondary inspection area where he consented to a search of the vehicle. Both of the occupants of the vehicle were non-immigrants from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, who were in possession of their travel documents. In the secondary inspection area, the canine alerted to the undercarriage of the vehicle, more specifically the engine's oil pan. Upon removing the engine's oil pan the Agents removed two bundles wrapped in foil, containing 7 pounds of cocaine valued at \$224,000. The two occupants of the vehicle were arrested and turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency in Corpus Christi, Texas for prosecution.

These seizures bring the McAllen Sector's total marijuana seizures to 47,517 pounds valued at \$38,016,603 and total cocaine seizures to 392 pounds valued at \$12,539,834 for fiscal year 2003. To date narcotics seizures for the McAllen Sector are down 16% compared to the same period last fiscal year. Total narcotics value for total seizures compared to last fiscal year are down 41%.

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